(f) if not, the extent position of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (f) Do not arise.

Funds allocated for the development of ports in Maharashtra

3589. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that State Government of Maharashtra has been requesting the Central Government since 2002 for grant of Central assistance for development of ports in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, whether the Central Government have so far taken any decision in this regard; and

(c) if not, by when a decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) The Maharashtra Maritime Board had proposed four projects for development of minor ports at Jaigad, Dharamtar, Redi and Vijaydurg under the proposed National Maritime Development Progamme (NMDP). Government has for the time being decided to prepare the National Maritime Development Programme, comprising schemes and projects for development of Major Ports, Shipping and Inland Water Transport Systems only.

International standard Highways

3590. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any study of the broken and unrepaired National Highways in the country;

(b) whether due to inadequate capacity, poor quality of National Highways, the country loses crores of rupees a year;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to construct National Highways of international standard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) National Highways are inspected regularly for their maintenance.

(b) and (c) It is a fact that there are economic losses due to inadequate capacity and quality of the National Highways. However, it is difficult to quantify accurately such losses.

(d) National Highways Development Project (NHDP) implemented by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) which includes 4/6-laning of existing National Highways and other 4-laning projects through the agencies of the State PWDs have been taken up for improvement/ development of the National Highways.

Improvement of roads in North-Eastern Region

3591. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved the proposal for undertaking/improvement/constructions of various roads in the N.E. Regions, particularly in the State of Assam;

(b) if so, the details in all the States of N.E. Region, road-wise and State-wise; and

(c) the details of total allocations during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Apart from giving sanctions for improvement/construction of National Highways under various annual plans and State roads under Central Roads Fund, Economic Importance and Inter-State Connectivity from time to time, the Government has approved a Special Accelerated Road Development Programme for improvement and upgradation of various roads in North-Eastern Region (SARDP-NE) covering 1310 km of road length at an estimated cost of Rs. 4168 crore under Phase 'A'. The road-wise and State-wise details are annexed as per statement (*See* below). An allocation of Rs. 550 crore has been made for this specific programme during 2006-07.